Shri Abid Hussain, Member, Planning Commission has been emphasizing that while considering proposals for induction of foreign technology, Government would keep in view that the selected technologies are contemporary and not those that have become obsolete and are being discarded by the developed world.

Launching of INSAT 1D Satellite

431. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the capacity of INSAT-1D satellite being built by the country and what would be its purpose; and

(b) by when it is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) INSAT-1D is functionally identical to INSAT-1B and INSAT-1C. It can provide about 4000 two-way telephone circuits, two television channels, meteorological imaging instrument and Data relay transponders.

(b) INSAT-1D launch is scheduled for April 1989.

Abolition of freight equalisation scheme

432. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position in regard to abolition of freight equalisation scheme as recommended by the Pande Committee; and

(b) when Government have accepted the recommendations of the Pande Committee, what are the reasons for delay in its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The phasing out of freight equalisation for cement started with the partial decontrol of cement with effect from 28-2-1982. Freight equalisation operates only in the case of levy cement whose quota is being progressively reduced.

In the case of iron and steel, in view of the representations received from a number of State Governments against the withdrawal of freight equalisation, the Government reconsidered the matter and decided to refer it to the National Development Council. The matter is yet to be discussed by the National Development Council.

World Bank assistance for Subarnarekha Project

433. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank assistance has been made available for Subarnarekha Multipurpose Project;

(b) if so, what amount of World Bank assistance has so far been obtained for the irrigation project;

(c) whether the Project Report has been finalised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of SDRs 105.625 million has been utilised till 30th September, 1988 out of SDRs 116.30 million assistance committed by the World Bank for this Project.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Subarnarekha Irrigation Project is an inter-State project involving Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. Under the tripartite agreement the Subarnarekha water will be shared by Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal in the ratio of 71 per cent, 27 per cent and 2 per cent respectively and the project cost will be shared in the ratio